



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3900.1.11>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:C0524B3F-5FBD-4A67-8615-7EA2A9605C9F>

***Dakotaseps* gen. nov., a replacement name for the lizard genus *Dakotasaurus* Nydam 2013, a junior homonym of the ichnotaxon *Dakotasaurus* Branson and Mehl 1932**

RANDALL L NYDAM

Department of Anatomy, Midwestern University, 19555 N 59th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona, USA. E-mail: Rnydam@midwestern.edu

Dakotasaurus gilletorum Nydam 2013 was erected for two partial mandibles of a paramacellodid-cordylid grade scincomorphan lizard from the early Late Cretaceous (Cenomanian) of southern Utah (Nydam 2013). However, the genus name *Dakotasaurus* is a junior homonym of the ichnofossil *Dakotasaurus* Branson and Mehl 1932. Under Article 23.1 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999) Branson and Mehl's (1932) name has priority.

There is no synonym available as a replacement name of the junior homonym as applied to the fossil lizard so in conjunction with ICZN Articles 57 and 60 I propose as a replacement the name *Dakotaseps* gen. nov. (from “Dakota” in reference to the Dakota Formation and from the Greek “sepos”, meaning lizard); type species—*D. gilletorum* Nydam 2013. This name perpetuates the original intent of Nydam (2013) to identify this taxon with the geological formation from which it is known.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank George Georgalis for bringing to my attention the preoccupation of the name *Dakotasaurus*.

Literature cited

- Branson, E.B. & Mehl, M.G. (1932) Footprint Records from the Paleozoic and Mesozoic of Missouri, Kansas, and Wyoming. *Geological Society of America Bulletin*, 43, 383–398.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1130/GSAB-43-383>
- ICZN (1999) *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Fourth Edition*. International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, c/o The Natural History Museum, London, 126 pp.
- Nydam, R.L. (2013) Lizards and Snakes from the Cenomanian through Campanian of Southern Utah: Filling the Gap in the Fossil Record of Squamata from the Late Cretaceous of the Western Interior of North America. In: Titus, A.L. & Loewen, M.A. (Eds.), *At the Top of the Grand Staircase: The Late Cretaceous of Southern Utah*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, pp. 370–423.